

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 11-16 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 12 and 13 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of all base claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 12 and 13 are directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al (USP 6,097,842).

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al in view of Pandel (USP 5,719,631).

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al (USP 6,097,842).

By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 11 and 14-15 and rewrites claim 12 in independent form.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
USSN Appln. No. 09/203,672

Q48591

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

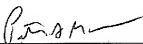
Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER



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